

GRE VERBAL PRACTICE PAPER 1

1. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

Caught completely unaware by his professor's question, Alfred timidly ventured a guess, which much to his relief, his professor _____.

Options:

- a) Gainsaid
- b) Denigrated
- c) Ignored
- d) Corroborated
- e) Derided

2. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

Sam has memorized the most _____ details about dinosaurs, and seems to have an inexhaustible knowledge about the most arcane details concerning these prehistoric animals.

Options:

- a) Quizzical
- b) Astute
- c) Tedious
- d) Recondite
- e) Mystical

3. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

Despite their reputation for being harsh, the ancient rulers were known to give _____ to the condemned quite frequently.

Options:

- a) Clemency
- b) Adulation
- c) Ephemera
- d) Philanthropy
- e) Nostalgia

4. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

He hated unnecessary aesthetic details, so his furniture was strictly _____.

Options:

- a) Lavish
- b) Malicious
- c) Utilitarian
- d) Ominous
- e) Benign

5. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

From the time of her birth, the girl had been _____, always disobeying the _____ of her elders.

Options:

- a) Wilful...insights
- b) Refractory....injunctions
- c) Childish....recommendations
- d) Vexing...tedium
- e) Unflinching....sagacity

6. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

Paschal was not known to _____ when discussing difficult topics; he did not fear _____ his friends by directly addressing difficult issues.

Options:

- a) Circumlocute...disconcerting
- b) Defer...vexing
- c) Lie...boring
- d) Dissimulate...emending
- e) Dramatize...angering

7. Suzanne never doubted the words of even the most _____ liar. Her _____ personality led her to fall into the plotting hands of even the most well-known scoundrels.

Options:

- a) Mendacious...ingenuous
- b) Fulminating...placid
- c) Loquacious....rapt
- d) Notable...forgiving
- e) Repentant...charitable

8. Choose the word or set of words that best completes the following sentence.

He was _____ and never wasted words, but his sister was _____ and loved to _____ cheerfully to anyone about even the most inconsequential topics.

Options:

- a) Terse...verbose...harangue
- b) Enigmatic...ponderous...chatter
- c) Lithe...boorish...lampoon
- d) Laconic...loquacious...prattle
- e) Hedonistic...ascetic...abstain

9. Everyone was surprised when the corporal, normally a _____ woman, not only spoke up in the meeting, but had the _____ to tell the five-star general to his face that his last order had been _____, issued in the heat of the moment without first considering later repercussions.

Options:

- a) garrulous . . . sagacity . . . meticulous
- b) taciturn . . . audacity . . . impetuous
- c) laconic . . . presumption . . . pragmatic
- d) obsequious . . . volatility . . . banal
- e) reticent . . . dogmatism . . . sanctioned

10. The scientist's theories initially seemed _____ at best, as there existed little evidence to support them; however, later advances in her field _____ her claims and she received many _____ for her work.

Options:

- a) tenuous...corroborated...accolades
- b) empirical...bolstered...panegyrics
- c) spurious...enervated...encomiums
- d) esoteric....disparaged...harangues
- e) ambiguous...vindicated...elegy

11. "Developments in Understanding Ancient Greek Art" by Will Floyd

Most people imagine stark white temples and plain marble statues as the ideal of ancient Greek art. Nothing could be further from the truth, as the ancient Greeks lavished their statues, sculptures, and buildings with bright colors. The common misconception of plainly adorned Hellenic art can be blamed on the ancient Greeks' biggest proponents in history. Enlightenment-era classicists eagerly visited ancient ruins in the eighteenth century and saw artifacts that had been weathered to plain white stone through decades of neglect. By the time nineteenth-century archaeologists found proof that the Parthenon and images of the Gods were meant to be in vivid hues, eminent scholars in Europe refused to countenance that pure white marble was not antiquity's aesthetic paradigm. Widespread acknowledgement of the ancient Greeks' adoration of bright colors only came in the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries, as scientific tests proved ancient statuary and buildings had once been covered in polychrome paint.

The main idea of the passage is _____?

Options?

- a) that popular assumptions about ancient Greeks are largely true
- b) the Greeks' ideal in art was plain white marble
- c) the Greeks had no knowledge of how to sculpt marble
- d) Greek art was uninspiring to most people in history
- e) that contrary to popular belief, Greek art was brightly painted

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The author's argument is best summarized as _____ ?

- a) the Greeks were poor artists who have been overrated in history
- b) twenty-first-century scientific tests will solve all disputes about the ancient world
- c) plain white marble is the ideal colour for sculptures
- d) a true understanding of Greek gods acknowledges their use of colour
- e) enlightenment-era classicists knew nothing about art

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The word "countenance" in the passage means _____.

Options:

- a) to refute and rebut

- b) to understand and acknowledge
- c) to dispute and disdain
- d) to celebrate and worship
- e) to mystify and confuse

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The author references "Enlightenment-era classicists" in order to _____.

Options:

- a) ridicule Enlightenment thought
- b) celebrate Enlightenment thought
- c) show how the misconceptions about Greek art developed
- d) show the value of scientific tests
- e) address the aesthetics paradigms of antiquity

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The word "paradigm" in the passage means _____.

Options:

- a) model or archetype

- b) adoration or worship
- c) aesthetic or style
- d) function or vitality
- e) understanding or belief

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It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

- a) all ancient cultures painted their statues bright colors
- b) all subsequent cultures rejected Greek styles
- c) no cultures appreciated polychrome paint
- d) only ancient Greeks built marble statues
- e) the ancient Greeks have influenced many subsequent cultures with their art

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The author views modern scientific tests as _____.

Options:

- a) unable to say anything about ancient Greek art
- b) valuable tools to attain new knowledge

- c) useful only in regards to modern issue
- d) impediments to developing artistic standards
- e) no better than those available to the ancient Greeks

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The author would not agree with the statement that _____ .

- a) the ancient Greeks made use of a variety of artistic media
- b) ancient Greek art was unimpressive compared to later developments
- c) enlightenment-era classicists greatly appreciated the ancient Greeks
- d) polychrome painting was a key element of ancient Greek art
- e) most ancient Greek art was first seen as plain white stone by most modern people

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It can be inferred from the passage that Enlightenment-era classicists _____.

Options:

- a) were jealous of the ancient Greeks' artistic abilities
- b) ignored the value of the ancient Greeks and their art
- c) knew nothing of any art styles
- d) provided no value to the understanding of Greek art
- e) held a great deal of affection for ancient Greek art

20. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

Although saving only a small amount of money each month can seem like a pointless endeavor, the _____ of funds over years of time can be remarkable

Options:

- a) Abscission
- b) Liquidity
- c) Accretion
- d) Tenacity
- e) Dearth

21. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

My dog's fear of water made the task of bathing him rather _____.

- a) Rudimentary
- b) Simple
- c) Straightforward
- d) Negligible
- e) Onerous

22. Choose the word or set of words that best completes the following sentence.

The physics professor's new theorem was so _____ that no one in the undergraduate class could understand even its most basic principles.

Options:

- a) loquacious
- b) erudite
- c) ambiguous

- d) lucid
- e) esoteric

23. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

Dave took everything that was said to him seriously, even _____ comments, which often forced his friends to digress from the topic of conversation to explain jokes which were normally left _____.

Options:

- a) viscous...querulous
- b) pusillanimous...pithy
- c) facetious...tacit
- d) filial.....luminous
- e) sportive...austere

24. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

Suzy thought Kevin would prove to be _____, but she discovered instead that his behavior was such a model of _____ that he could never be considered a spendthrift.

Options:

- a) salubrious...prudence
- b) perfidious...reticence
- c) profligate...piety
- d) abstemious...dissipation
- e) prodigal...frugality

25. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

The young are often naïve and _____, aiming at _____ schemes that in reality cannot be accomplished.

Options:

- a) foolish..incredible
- b) idiotic...impossible

- c) energetic...humanitarian
- d) quixotic...grandeur
- e) bright-eyed...optimistic

26. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

The butler completed his tasks in a _____ manner, barely paying attention to his work as he overheard the household's _____ scandal in its earliest stages of hushed conversations and snide comments.

Options:

- a) hackneyed...implacable
- b) perfunctory...nascent
- c) desultory...resolute
- d) pervasive....aggrandized
- e) sordid...boisterous

27. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

The editor reduced the introduction from ten _____ pages to two _____ paragraphs by _____ all of the unnecessary verbal flourishes that riddled its sentences.

Options:

- a) officious . . . sedulous . . . bolstering
- b) tortuous . . . succinct . . . excising
- c) immutable . . . intransigent . . . inhibiting
- d) turgid . . . concise . . . qualifying
- e) florid . . . trenchant . . . expiating

28. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

The _____ cat refused to walk around tamely on a leash, but the _____ dog not only heeled, but obeyed each of its master's commands obediently and never needed to be _____ for not listening.

Options:

- a) credulous . . . insipid . . . aggrandized
- b) obstreperous . . . dogmatic . . . countenanced
- c) truculent . . . complaisant . . . impeded
- d) recalcitrant . . . tractable . . . admonished
- e) pernicious...prodigal...flouted

29. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted into the sentence, best completes the sentence.

The fashion show featured pieces inspired by _____ styles, and the models were _____ in pieces that _____ to Greek togas, knightly armor, and trailing dresses with underskirts and bustles.

- a) antiquated . . . arrayed . . . abated
- b) banal . . . placated . . . appropriated
- c) ancient . . . feigned . . . castigated
- d) archaic . . . garbed . . . alluded
- e) apocryphal . . . eulogized . . . impugned

30. Adapted from *Seven Discourses Delivered in the Royal Academy By the President* by Joshua Reynolds (1778)

All the objects which are exhibited to our view by nature, upon close examination will be found to have their blemishes and defects. The most beautiful forms have something about them like weakness, minuteness, or imperfection. But it is not every eye that perceives these blemishes. It must be an eye long used to the contemplation and comparison of these forms—and which, by a long habit of observing what any set of objects of the same kind have in common, that alone can acquire the power of discerning what each wants in particular. This long laborious comparison should be the first study of the painter who aims at the greatest style. By this means, he acquires a just idea of beautiful forms; he corrects nature by herself, her imperfect state by her more perfect. His eye being enabled to distinguish the accidental deficiencies, excrescences, and deformities of things from their general figures, he makes out an abstract idea of their forms more perfect than any one original—and what may seem a paradox, he learns to design naturally by drawing his figures unlike to any one object. This idea of the perfect state of nature, which the artist calls the ideal beauty, is the great leading principle by which works of genius are conducted. By this, Phidias acquired his fame. He wrought upon a sober principle what has so much excited the enthusiasm of the world—and by this method you, who have courage to tread the same path, may acquire equal reputation.

The main argument of the passage is _____.

Options:

- a) a painter can never do better than images in nature

- b) a painter must always draw the imperfections of nature
- c) a painter is born with a natural ability to draw images in nature
- d) a painter can learn nothing through study
- e) a painter can perfect the blemishes of nature in his own work through careful study